

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-3, 6-14, 16, 19-21, 23-37, 39-41, and 53-55 are allowed.

Examiner's Statements of Reason(s) for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. Cheng and Kawano, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or reasonably suggest **"recording said transaction identifier of the hardware unit and said associated selection data in a central database operatively connected to the second handling machine, determining the selection data for the hardware unit by looking the transaction identifier of the hardware unit in the central database, and wherein the transaction identifier identifies the hardware unit and the selection data indicating the selected software for which said up-to-date versions of selected software are to be downloaded to the hardware unit"** as recited in all independent claims. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Cheng and Kawano with other prior art to obtain the claimed invention. Therefore, the claims are allowed over the prior arts of record.
4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Examiner's Amendment

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Aaron A. Fishman (Reg. No. 44,682) on 9/10/2009. The examiner's amendment is necessitated to further clarify the claimed invention.

6. Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled.
7. Claims 1, 6, 7, 35, 54, and 55 have been amended below:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method for downloading up-to-date versions of selected software from a plurality of software vendors over a network and for installing the up-to-date versions of selected ~~plurality of~~ software to a hardware unit, the network comprising a first software handling machine configured to execute a download manager, a second software handling machine configured to execute a download supervisor and a plurality of download servers for downloading the up-to-date versions of selected software from the plurality of software vendors, the method comprising:

associating, by said download manager, a transaction identifier of the hardware unit with selection data indicating the selected software for which said up-to-date versions of selected of software are to be downloaded to the hardware unit, wherein the

selected software includes software that were pre-configured into the hardware unit at or before the time of sale of the hardware unit; and further wherein the transaction identifier identifies the hardware unit;

recording, by said download supervisor, said transaction identifier of the hardware unit and said associated selection data in a central database operatively connected to the second software handling machine;

sending a download transaction request comprising the transaction identifier of the hardware unit from the download manager to the download supervisor of the second software handling machine;

determining, by the download supervisor of the second software handling machine, the selection data for the hardware unit by looking up the transaction identifier of the hardware unit in the central database; and

responsive to determining, by the download supervisor of the second software handling machine, that the requested download transaction is authorized, performing the steps of:

assembling, by the download supervisor of the second software handling machine, a download/installation instruction comprising up-to-date software access information for the selected software indicated by said selection data, wherein said software access information comprises a plurality of authentication codes for activating or downloading said up-to-date versions of selected software from the plurality of software vendors to the hardware unit, the authentication

code provided by an authentication subsystem of said download supervisor of the second software handling machine;

communicating the download/installation instruction from the download supervisor of the second software handling machine to the download manager;
and

performing, by the download manager, a download and installation of the up-to- date versions of selected software from the plurality of software vendors to the hardware unit pursuant to the download/installation instruction,

wherein the first software handling machine linked to the hardware unit by an external bus, and wherein the download manager executes upon detecting that the hardware unit is linked to the first software handling machine by said external bus.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the download manager loads from a removable storage media.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the first software handling machine comprises a personal computer.

Claim 35 (Currently amended): A system for downloading software to a hardware unit from a plurality of software vendors over a network, the system comprising:

a plurality of software vendor download servers in the network for providing up-to-date versions of selected software from the plurality of software vendors;

a first software handling machine in the network and linked to the hardware unit, the first software handling machine executing a download manager, the download manager initiating a download/installation transaction comprising selected software to be downloaded to the hardware unit from one or more of the plurality of download servers, sending a transaction identifier of the hardware unit in a download transaction request to a download supervisor of a second software handling machine over the network, and downloading and installing the selected software from the plurality of software vendors to the hardware unit pursuant to a download/installation instruction received in response to the download transaction request, said selected software being determined at the time of sale of the hardware unit, wherein said transaction identifier of the hardware unit are associated with selection data indicating said selected software of which said up-to-date versions of selected software to be downloaded to the hardware unit, wherein the transaction identifier identifies the hardware unit;

the second software handling machine in the network executing the download supervisor, the download supervisor determining whether the download transaction request is authorized, and, in response to determining by the download supervisor that the transaction is authorized by looking up the transaction identifier of the hardware unit in the central database, assembling a download/installation instruction comprising up-to-date software access information for the selected software indicated by said selection data, wherein said software access information comprises a plurality of authentication

codes for activating or downloading said up-to-date versions of selected software from the plurality of software vendors to the hardware unit, the authentication code provided by an authentication subsystem of said download supervisor of the second software handling machine, and to send the download/installation instruction to the download manager;

a central database operatively connected to the second software handling machine, the download supervisor record said transaction identifier of the hardware unit and said associated selection data into the central database; and

wherein the first software handling machine linked to the hardware unit by an external bus, and wherein the download manager executes upon detecting that the hardware unit is linked to the first software handling machine by said external bus.

Claim 54 (Current Amended): A method for downloading up-to-date versions of selected software from a plurality of software vendors over a network and for installing the up-to-date versions of selected software to a hardware unit, the network comprising a first software handling machine configured to execute a download manager, a second software handling machine configured to execute a download supervisor and a plurality of download servers for downloading the up-to-date versions of selected software from the plurality of software vendors, the method comprising:

associating, by said download manager, a transaction identifier of the hardware unit with selection data indicating the selected software for which said up-to-date

versions of selected software are to be downloaded to the hardware unit, wherein the selected software includes software that were pre-configured into the hardware unit at or before the time of sale of the hardware unit, and further wherein the transaction identifier identifies the hardware unit;

sending a download transaction request comprising the transaction identifier of the hardware unit from the download manager to the download supervisor of the second software handling machine;

recording, by said download supervisor, said transaction identifier of the hardware unit and said associated selection data in a central database operatively connected to the second software handling machine;

determining, by the download supervisor of the second software handling machine, the selection data for the hardware unit by looking up the transaction identifier of the software unit under central database;

responsive to determining, by the download supervisor of the second software handling machine, that the requested download transaction is authorized, performing the steps of:

assembling, by the download supervisor of the second software handling machine, a download/installation instruction comprising up-to-date software access information for the selected software indicated by said selection data, wherein said software access information comprises a plurality of authentication codes for activating or downloading said up-to-date versions of selected software from the plurality of software vendors to the hardware unit, the authentication codes provided by an

authentication subsystem of said download supervisor of the second software handling machine;

communicating the download/installation instruction from the download supervisor of the second software handling machine to the download manager; and performing, by the download manager, a download and installation of the up-to-date versions of selected software from the plurality of software vendors to the hardware unit pursuant to the download/installation instruction; and

wherein the first software handling machine linked to the hardware unit by an external bus, and wherein the download manager executes upon detecting that the hardware unit is linked to the first software handling machine by said external bus.

Claim 55 (Current Amended): A method for downloading up-to-date versions of selected software from a plurality of software vendors over a network and for installing the up-to-date versions of selected software to a hardware unit, the network comprising a first software handling machine including a point of sale application and configured to execute a download manager, a second software handling machine configured to execute a download supervisor and a plurality of download servers for downloading the up-to-date versions of selected software from the plurality of software vendors, the method comprising:

associating, by said download manager, a transaction identifier of the hardware unit with selection data indicating the selected software for which said up-to-date versions of selected software are to be downloaded to the hardware unit, wherein the

selected software includes software that were pre-configured into the hardware unit at or before the time of sale of the hardware unit, and further wherein the transaction identifier identifies the hardware unit;

recording, by said download supervisor, said transaction identifier of the hardware unit and said associated selection data in a central database operatively connected to the second software handling machine;

sending a download transaction request comprising the transaction identifier of the hardware unit from the download manager to the download supervisor of the second software handling machine;

determining, by the point of sale application of the first software handling machine, the selection data for the hardware unit by looking up the transaction identifier of the hardware unit in the central database; and

responsive to determining, by the download supervisor of the second software handling machine, that the requested download transaction is authorized, performing the steps of:

assembling, by the download supervisor of the second software handling machine, a download/installation instruction comprising up-to-date software access information for the selected software indicated by said selection data, wherein said software access information comprises a plurality of authentication codes for activating or downloading said up-to-date versions of selected software from the plurality of software vendors to the hardware unit, the authentication

codes provided by an authentication subsystem of said download supervisor of the second software handling machine;

communicating the download/installation instruction from the download supervisor of the second software handling machine to the download manager;
and

performing, by the download manager, a download and installation of the up-to- date versions of selected software from the plurality of software vendors to the hardware unit pursuant to the download/installation instruction, and

wherein the first software handling machine linked to the hardware unit by an external bus, and wherein the download manager executes upon detecting that the hardware unit is linked to the first software handling machine by said external bus.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phillip H. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 270-1070. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM EST.
9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Y. Zhen can be reached on (571) 272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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9/10/2009
/Wei Y Zhen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2191